

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1525

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 29, 1976

Application of WHITE HOUSE SIGHT-)
SEEING CORPORATION for Authority to)
Increase Its Rates)

Application No. 929

Order Directing WHITE HOUSE SIGHT-)
SEEING CORPORATION to Comply with)
Regulation No. 55-08)

Consolidated Docket No. 316

By Application No. 929, filed March 24, 1976, White House Sight-seeing Corporation (White House) seeks approval of WMATC Tariff No. 2, which would cancel its current WMATC Tariff No. 1 effective April 23, 1976. The new tariff would increase the rates to be applied to charter operations and special operations authorized by Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 1. That Certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers and their baggage, over irregular routes, in charter operations and special operations, round-trip, sightseeing or pleasure tours, from points within the Metropolitan District to points within the Metropolitan District.

White House has submitted the following charges for charter service without the provision of a guide or lecturer.

<u>Vehicle Capacity</u>	<u>Rate Per Hour</u>
7 to 14 passengers	\$16
39 passengers	25
43 to 51 passengers	30

The charges would be assessed for each vehicle with a four hour minimum charge. There would be an additional charge of \$40 when a bar is installed and an additional charge of \$10 per vehicle when charter service is rendered totally between the hours of 7 P. M. and 7 A. M.

White House has submitted the following per capita fares for specified tours.

<u>Tour Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Full Fare</u>	<u>Group Adult Fare</u>	<u>Group Student Fare</u>
1	Building Interior	\$ 9.00	\$ 7.20	\$ 6.75
2	City - Arlington	9.00	7.20	6.75
3	Mt. Vernon and Alexandria	10.00	8.00	7.50
3-B	Mt. Vernon and Alexandria with boat	12.50	10.50	10.00
4	Buildings - City - Arlington	15.00	12.00	11.25
5	Mt. Vernon All Day Tour	18.00	14.40	13.50
5-B	Mt. Vernon All Day Tour with boat	20.50	16.90	16.00
6	FBI All Day Tour	16.00	12.80	12.00
7	DeLuxe All Day Tour	23.00	18.40	17.25
8	Washington at Night	10.50	8.40	7.90
9	Two Day Tour	32.00	25.60	24.00
9-B	Two Day Tour with boat	34.50	28.10	26.50

The group rates are available to groups of 15 to 29 persons who would ride with regular tours. With respect to groups of 30 or more, a private bus would be used.

White House also has submitted the following per capita fares for group transfers.

<u>Termini</u>	<u>Rate Per Person</u>
Railroad or bus station and downtown points	\$2.25
Washington National Airport and other intermediate areas	2.50
Dulles International Airport to or from downtown	3.00

Between 6 P. M. and 8 A. M. there would be a 25¢ per person additional charge on all transfers.

The Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 5(a) provides the following:

Each carrier shall file with the Commission, and print, and keep open to public inspection, tariffs showing (1) all fares it charges for transportation subject to this Act, including any joint fares established for through routes over which it performs transportation subject to this Act in conjunction with

another carrier, and (2) to the extent required by regulations of the Commission, the regulations and practices of such carrier affecting such fares. Such tariffs shall be filed, posted, and published in such form and manner, and shall contain such information, as the Commission by regulation shall prescribe. The Commission may reject any tariff so filed which is not consistent with this section and such regulations. Any tariff so rejected shall be void.

White House does not hold authority to perform charter movements which are not sightseeing or pleasure tours. Accordingly, that portion of the proposed tariff setting forth per capita fares for group transfers shall be rejected.

In the exercise of the power to prescribe just and reasonable rates, and regulations and practices relating thereto, the Commission gives due consideration, among other factors, to the need, in the public interest, for adequate and efficient transportation service by a carrier at the lowest cost consistent with the furnishing of such service and to the need of revenues sufficient to enable the carrier, under honest, economical, and efficient management, to provide such service. See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 6(a)(3). The Commission also is required to consider, among other things, the financial condition of the carrier, its revenue requirements, and whether the carrier is being operated economically and efficiently when deciding whether a proposed tariff should be suspended. See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 6(a)(1). White House did not submit as part of its application any information upon which the Commission could base any findings with respect to the financial condition of White House or the cost involved in providing the specified services. Accordingly, the Commission shall suspend the proposed tariff and schedule a hearing in order to develop an appropriate record upon which to determine, among other things, whether the proposed rates are just, reasonable, and not unduly preferential or unduly discriminatory either between riders or sections of the Metropolitan District.

The Commission shall require White House to submit and be prepared to support with competent witnesses the following exhibits:

- (A) A detailed balance sheet showing the financial condition of White House as of December 31, 1975.
- (B) A detailed income statement of White House for the twelve-month period ended December 31, 1975.
- (C) A detailed schedule showing the equipment used and useful by White House in rendering transportation, including the dates of acquisition, make, year, model, seating capacity, and whether owned or leased.

- (D) A statement projecting revenues and revenue deductions for the twelve-month period ending April 30, 1977, under the proposed rates, together with supporting details, including operating ratio.

The Commission shall require that six (6) copies of the exhibits shall be filed with the Commission or or before Monday, April 12, 1976.

By Order No. 1514, served March 12, 1976, the Commission directed White House to charge only those fares set forth in its current WMATC Tariff No. 1, made White House a formal party to a proceeding to determine whether it has charged members of the general public fares other than those set forth in its current WMATC Tariff No. 1, and scheduled a public hearing to commence March 30, 1976, with respect to White House's compliance with its current WMATC Tariff No. 1 and Order No. 1514. The factual matters involved in the proceeding scheduled for public hearing on March 30, 1976, are similar to the financial information to be developed with respect to the proposed tariff. The Commission believes that the public interest would be served by consolidating these proceedings. Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Commission Rule of Practice 20-02, these matters shall be consolidated for public hearing.

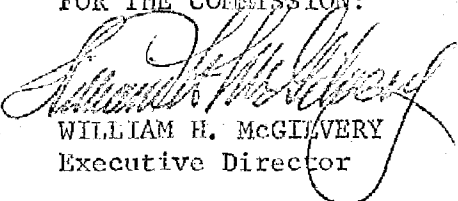
By Order No. 1514, the Commission assessed White House the amount of \$300, pursuant to the provisions of the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19, preliminarily estimated to cover the reasonable cost of that proceeding. The Commission believes that the amount should be sufficient to cover the reasonable cost of the consolidated proceeding. Accordingly, White House will not be assessed any additional amount at this time.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That WMATC Tariff No. 2 cancels WMATC Tariff No. 1 of White House Sightseeing Corporation filed March 24, 1976, be, and it is hereby, suspended until further order of the Commission.
2. That White House Sightseeing Corporation be, and it is hereby, directed to file with the Commission six (6) copies of the exhibits, the original to be submitted at the hearing, required hereinbefore on or before Monday, April 12, 1976.
3. That the public hearing scheduled to commence on March 30, 1976, by Order No. 1514, served March 12, 1976, be, and it is hereby, postponed until April 14, 1976, at 9:30 A. M., and that the public hearing be, and it is hereby, consolidated with the public hearing hereinafter scheduled for Application No. 929 of White House Sightseeing Corporation.

4. That Application No. 929 of White House Sightseeing Corporation be, and it is hereby, scheduled for public hearing to commence Wednesday, April 14, 1976, at 9:30 A. M., in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

FOR THE COMMISSION:



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERAY
Executive Director

